

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report  
May 2008 General Session

CHAPTER 2.3.3.

**BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS**

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Article 2.3.3.1.

The recommendations in this Chapter are intended to manage the human and animal health risks associated with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection in domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) bovines including cattle (*Bos taurus*, *B. indicus* and *B. grunniens*), water buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) and wood bison (*Bison bison* and *B. bonasus*).

When authorising import or transit of the following commodities, Veterinary Authorities should comply with the requirements prescribed in this Chapter relevant to the status of bovine tuberculosis in the exporting country, zone or compartment:

1. live animals;
2. semen, ova and *in vivo* derived embryos collected and handled in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society;
3. meat and meat products;
4. milk and milk products.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the Terrestrial Manual.

Article 2.3.3.2.

**Country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis**

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis, a country, zone or compartment should satisfy the following requirements:

1. *M. bovis* infection in domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) bovines including cattle (*Bos taurus*, *B. indicus* and *B. grunniens*), water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and wood bison (*Bison bison* and *B. bonasus*) is a notifiable disease in the country;
2. an on-going awareness programme should be in place to encourage reporting of all cases suggestive of tuberculosis;
3. regular and periodic testing of all cattle, water buffalo and wood bison herds has shown that at least 99.8% of the herds and 99.9% of the animals in the country, zone or compartment have been found free from bovine tuberculosis and the percentage of herds confirmed infected with *M. bovis* has not exceeded 0.1% per year for 3 consecutive years;
4. a surveillance programme should be in place to detect bovine tuberculosis in the country, zone or compartment, through monitoring at slaughter based on the inspection described in Article 2.3.3.8.;
5. cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison introduced into a country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis should be accompanied by a certificate from an official Veterinarian attesting that they come from a country, zone or compartment or herd free from bovine tuberculosis or

comply with the relevant provisions in Article 2.3.3.4. or in Article 2.3.3.5.

Article 2.3.3.3.

**Herd free from bovine tuberculosis**

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis, a herd of cattle, water buffaloes or wood bison should satisfy the following requirements:

1. the herd is in a country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis and is certified free by the Veterinary Authority; or
2. cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison in the herd:
  - a. showed no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis;
  - b. over 6 weeks of age, have shown a negative result to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of 6 months, the first test being performed at 6 months following the slaughter of the last affected animal;
  - c. showed a negative result to an annual tuberculin test to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis; or
    - i. showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 2 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of herds confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 1% of all herds in the country or zone during the last 2 years; or
    - ii. showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 3 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of herds confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 0.2% of all herds in the country or zone during the last 4 years; or
    - iii. showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 4 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of herds confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 0.1% of all herds in the country or zone during the last 6 years;
3. cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison introduced into the herd come from a herd free from bovine tuberculosis. This condition may be waived for animals which have been isolated and which, prior to entry into the herd, were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a 6-month interval with negative results.

Article 2.3.3.4.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison for breeding or rearing

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis on the day of shipment;
2. originate from a herd free from bovine tuberculosis that is in a country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis; or
3. were subjected to the tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment and come from a herd free from bovine tuberculosis; or
4. have been isolated and prior to entry into the herd were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a 6-month interval with negative results.

Article 2.3.3.5.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison for slaughter

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the animals:

1. originated from a herd free from bovine tuberculosis or were subjected to a tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment;
2. were not being eliminated as part of an eradication programme against bovine tuberculosis.

Article 2.3.3.6.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for semen of cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that:

1. the donor animals:
  - a. showed no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis on the day of collection of the semen;
  - b. were kept in an artificial insemination centre free from bovine tuberculosis in a country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis and which only accepts animals from free herds in a free country, zone or compartment; or
  - c. showed negative results to tuberculin tests carried out annually and were kept in a herd free from bovine tuberculosis;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.2.1.

Article 2.3.3.7.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for embryos/ova of cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that:

1. the donor females:
  - a. and all other susceptible animals in the herd of origin showed no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis during the 24 hours prior to embryo collection;
  - b. originated from a herd free from bovine tuberculosis in a country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis; or
  - c. were kept in a herd free from bovine tuberculosis, and were subjected to a tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during an isolation period of 30 days in the establishment of origin prior to departure to the collection centre;
2. the embryos/ova were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1., Appendix 3.3.2. or Appendix 3.3.3., as relevant.

Article 2.3.3.8.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for fresh meat and meat products of cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from animals which have been subjected to *ante-mortem* and *post-mortem* inspections as described in Appendix 3.10.1.

Article 2.3.3.9.

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require:

for milk and milk products of cattle, water buffaloes and wood bison

the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the consignment:

1. has been derived from animals in a herd free from bovine tuberculosis; or
2. was subjected to pasteurization; or
3. was subjected to a combination of control measures with equivalent performance as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products.